

HORSE CARE REGULATIONS

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HORSE CARE REGULATIONS

PART 1 PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

1. NAME AND COMMENCEMENT

- 1.1 These regulations are the Horse Care Regulations made by the Board under the New Zealand Rules of Harness Racing and clause 14.4 of the Constitution of Harness Racing New Zealand Incorporated.
- 1.2 These regulations come into force on 1 October 2022.

2. OBJECT AND PURPOSE

- 2.1 The purpose of these regulations is to ensure;
- 2.1.1 The Animal Welfare Act 1999, Animal Welfare (Care and Procedure) Regulations 2018, and Code of Welfare: Horse and Donkeys are complied with.
- 2.1.2 To provide standard of care in addition to the Animal Welfare Act 1999, Animal Welfare (Care and Procedure) Regulations 2018, and Code of Welfare: Horse and Donkeys by participants in harness racing.
- 2.1.3 The health, safety and care of all standardbred horses (horse) recorded in the New Zealand Studbook from birth and to after retirement from racing and/or breeding.

3. INTERPRETATION

- 3.1 In these regulations, unless the context otherwise requires:

Accountable Person means all of the following: -

- (a) owner of the horse except where:
- (i) there are two or more owners and they have nominated the Accountable Person at the time of registration or transfer of ownership in which case the Accountable Person is the nominated Accountable Person, or
- (ii) if a horse is owned by a syndicate or approved company the Accountable Person is the Racing Manager of the syndicate or approved company; and
- (iii) where the horse is held on trust the Accountable Person are the trustees of the trust.
- (b) Where the horse is in training or on a trainer's premises the trainer.
- (c) Where the horse is in the care of a licensed person the licensed person.
- (d) In the case of a foal not registered the owner, or racing manager (as applicable) of the mare of the foal.

Animal Welfare Act 1999, Animal Welfare (Care and Procedure) Regulations 2018, and the Code of Welfare: Horse and Donkeys¹ includes any Act or Regulations passed, or Code of Conduct issued, in substitution of the said Act, Regulations, or Code of Conduct.

¹ Link to the Animal Welfare Act 1999: <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1999/0142/latest/DLM49664.html?src=qs>

Link to the Animal Welfare (Care and Procedure) Regulations 2018:

<https://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2018/0050/latest/LMS22789.html?src=qs>

Link to the Code of Welfare: Horse and Donkeys: <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/animals/animal-welfare/codes/all-animal-welfare-codes/#codes>

Board means the Board of HRNZ or any sub-committee of the Board.

Chief Executive means the Chief Executive of Harness Racing New Zealand or his or her delegate.

Chief Executive of the RIB means the Chief Executive of the Racing Industry Board or his or her delegate.

HRNZ rules and regulations means the New Zealand Rules of Harness Racing and any regulations made under the rules and/or the Constitution of Harness Racing New Zealand Incorporated.

PART 2 HORSE CARE PRINCIPLES

4. GENERAL

- 4.1 HRNZ embraces and communicates the Five Domains model for animal welfare which adheres to the current scientific knowledge of animal welfare.
- 4.2 At all times the health, welfare, and care of the horse must be a paramount and must be never subordinate to competitive or commercial influences.
- 4.3 No person may engage in practices that could cause physical or mental suffering to a horse.
- 4.4 Horses must be cared for by a sufficient number of personnel, who, collectively, possess the ability, knowledge and competence necessary to ensure the health and welfare of the animals in accordance with these regulations.

5. NUTRITION

- 5.1 Unless otherwise stated by a veterinarian a horse must be provided with:
 - 5.1.1 Access to clean, fresh water to drink sufficient for their needs.
 - 5.1.2 A balanced diet including 1-2% of the horse's body weight in natural fibre or roughage.
 - 5.1.3 Access to food sufficient for their needs, with no deprivation of food for more than 12 hours.
 - 5.1.4 Supplementary feed and trace minerals if required, such as when pasture is poor quality, a horse is using extra energy (e.g., if in work, adverse weather conditions, lactating mares, pregnant mares in their final trimester), or needing to gain condition.
- 5.2 An Accountable Person must comply with Part 3 of the [Code of Welfare: Horses and Donkeys](#) including:
 - 5.2.1 If any horse shows signs of being emaciated, or if the body condition score of any horse falls below 2 (on a scale of 0-5), urgent remedial action must be taken to improve the condition of the horse. The exception being horses in racing fitness that are healthy but bordering between body condition score 1 and 2.
 - 5.2.2 If any horse shows signs of being very overweight, such that it may pose health risks to the horse, or if the body condition score of any horse is greater than 4 (on a scale of 0-

5), urgent remedial action must be taken to reduce the body condition score of the horse.

- 5.3 A copy of the Code of Welfare: Horses and Donkeys body condition score is set out in Schedule 1 to these regulations.

6. ENVIRONMENT

- 6.1 A horse must be provided with:

- 6.1.1 A secure, safe, and hygienic environment, without excessive faeces and urine accumulation.
- 6.1.2 Facilities, housing, fences, horse enclosures, horse areas which are designed, constructed, maintained, and operated in a manner that minimises the likelihood of distress, the horse escaping, the spread of infectious diseases, or injury to the horse.
- 6.1.3 Space for free movement, room to allow the horse to stand freely in the normal position with its head fully raised, walk forward and turn, lie down, roll, stretch and groom themselves without restriction.
- 6.1.4 A safe environment that allows interaction with other horse(s) or suitable companion(s).
- 6.1.5 Access to a form of shelter to reduce the risk to their health and welfare caused by exposure to the elements including inclement weather, cold, rain, wind, excessive sunlight, and heat.
- 6.1.6 The means to minimise the effects of heat stress.
- 6.1.7 Suitable ground surfaces in stables, yards, and paddocks, and training and racing venues.
- 6.1.8 Good ventilation when stabled.
- 6.1.9 Natural or comparable artificial lighting during daylight hours when stabled.
- 6.1.10 Grazing on fresh pasture where possible.

7. HEALTH

- 7.1 A horse must be provided with:

- 7.1.1 Care by people competent at recognising the signs of ill-health or injury who will take prompt remedial action, as appropriate.
- 7.1.2 Proper and timely management of chronic and acute injuries, conditions, and disease.
- 7.1.3 Approved treatment such that surgeries or surgical procedures are only conducted by licensed veterinarians.
- 7.1.4 Good hoof care where hooves must be trimmed as required to permit normal mobility and to maintain hoof health, shape, and function.
- 7.1.5 Good teeth care where teeth must be maintained as required to permit normal grazing and chewing.
- 7.1.6 Exercise sufficient to maintain its health and welfare except where the exercise may be detrimental to the health and welfare of the horse.

- 7.2 The trimming of inner ear hair and whiskers of a horse is not permitted.

- 7.3 An Accountable Person must ensure the Notifiable Surgeries and Procedures Regulations are complied with.

8. TREATMENTS

- 8.1 In these regulations a treatment is something that is done, given, or administered to a horse for illness, injury, or for the wellbeing of the horse and includes:
- 8.1.1 Any treatment or medication prescribed or administered by a veterinarian.
 - 8.1.2 Any alkalinising agent.
 - 8.1.3 Any herbal or therapeutic preparations.
 - 8.1.4 Any substance that may give rise to a breach of the rules or regulations relating to prohibited substances.
 - 8.1.5 Shockwave therapy.
 - 8.1.6 Acupuncture.
 - 8.1.7 Laser treatment.
 - 8.1.8 Chiropractic treatment.
 - 8.1.9 The use of any electrical stimulation device.
- 8.2 An Accountable Person must ensure:
- 8.2.1 All treatments are clearly labelled.
 - 8.2.2 Any treatment that is unlabelled, no longer prescribed for a horse, or expired is removed from the Accountable Person's premises.
 - 8.2.3 That any treatment that may give rise to a breach of the rules relating to prohibited substances are stored separately and securely from other feed stored at the premises.
 - 8.2.4 Must keep and maintain a logbook:
 - 8.2.4.1 Listing all therapeutic substances in his or her possession.
 - 8.2.4.2 Recording all details of treatment administered to any horse in his or her care and including as a minimum requirement the name of the horse, the date and time of administration of the treatment, the name of the treatment (brand name of active constituent), reason for treatment, the route of administration, the amount given, and the name and signature of the person or persons administering and authorising treatment.

9. BEHAVIOUR AND MENTAL STATE

- 9.1 A horse must be provided with:
- 9.1.1 An environment that provides safe, compatible, and appropriate opportunities to express natural horse behaviours.
 - 9.1.2 An environment that permits sufficient sleep and rest.
 - 9.1.3 An environment that allows interaction with other horses or suitable companion.
 - 9.1.4 Management provisions to meet nutritional, environmental, health and behavioural requirements.

10. HANDLING

- 10.1 A horse must be:
- 10.1.1 Checked regularly for any changes in their appearance or behaviour.

- 10.1.2 Observed for changes in appearance or behaviour that may indicate health issues which should be diagnosed as soon as reasonably practicable and then treated.
- 10.1.3 Handled and trained at all times in such a way as to minimise the risk of pain, injury, or distress.
- 10.1.4 Not worked at an intensity that is likely to cause exhaustion, heat stress, injury, or distress.
- 10.1.5 Handled following the practices outlined in Part 6.1 of the Code of Welfare: Horses and Donkeys.

11. TRANSPORTATION

- 11.1 When a horse is transported in a vehicle, aircraft, or ship:
 - 11.1.1 It must be examined by the person in charge prior to loading to ensure that it is fit for transport and is able to withstand the journey without suffering unreasonable or unnecessary pain, or distress.
 - 11.1.2 It must be protected against injuries and other health risks including dehydration, fear and distress.
 - 11.1.3 The care of the horse should be properly attended to by a competent person.
 - 11.1.4 The transportation must be appropriate for the horse including ensuring:
 - 11.1.4.1 is provided with reasonably comfortable and secure accommodation; and
 - 11.1.4.2 is supplied with proper and sufficient food and water at regular intervals during the journey.
 - 11.1.4.3 the horse float, vehicle, or truck used in the transportation must have a current Warrant of Fitness or Certificate of Fitness as applicable.

12. TRAINING

- 12.1 Training must not involve methods that involve inhumane practices.
- 12.2 All gear, equipment, device, or thing used in training must be in a safe working condition and be used as intended and so as not to cause injury.
- 12.3 Equipment must be used and fitted in such a way as to avoid pain, injury, or distress to the horse.
- 12.4 A horse showing symptoms of disease, lameness, an ailment, or pre-existing clinical conditions should not be trained or raced unless on veterinary advice such training or racing is permitted

13. RETIREMENT FROM RACING AND/OR BREEDING

- 13.1 On the retirement of horses from racing or breeding the owner must take reasonable steps to ensure the horse will be provided good care for the rest of its natural life. The owner has a responsibility to retire horses in a condition that best places them to transition to their next stage of life. If a horse is not deemed suitable for a natural retirement, then it is the responsibility of the owner to make the right decision for the horse, including euthanasia.
- 13.2 Owners are encouraged to provide a person who has the intention of rehoming the horse, with:
 - 13.2.1 a horse cover appropriate for the season;
 - 13.2.2 a halter;

- 13.2.3 feet recently trimmed or shod (within last 8 weeks for trim or 4 weeks for shod);
 - 13.2.4 teeth recently floated (within last 12 months);
 - 13.2.5 feed suitable for the horse; and
 - 13.2.6 records of horse's worming programme and the products used.
- 13.3 Once a horse retires from racing or breeding the Accountable Person is responsible within five working days for notifying HRNZ of its retirement and what has or is to happen to the horse.
- 13.4 Euthanasia, when necessary, must be performed using a recognised humane method, and only by persons who are able to prove competence or appropriate training in using the method selected.

14. OBLIGATIONS

- 14.1 Participants in racing must comply with their obligations under the:
- 14.1.1 HRNZ rules and regulations
 - 14.1.2 Animal Welfare Act 1999.
 - 14.1.3 Code of Welfare: Horses and Donkeys.
 - 14.1.4 Animal Welfare (Care and Procedure) Regulations 2018.

PART 3 ACCOUNTABLE PERSONS

15. ACCOUNTABLE PERSONS

- 15.1 An Accountable Person in respect of a horse must take all reasonable steps to ensure that the physical, health, and behavioural needs of the horse are met in a manner that is in accordance with:
- 15.1.1 These regulations.
 - 15.1.2 The Animal Welfare Act 1999, Animal Welfare (Care and Procedure) Regulations 2018, the Code of Welfare: Horses and Donkeys and any other statutory or regulatory obligations.
 - 15.1.3 Good practice.
 - 15.1.4 Scientific knowledge.
 - 15.1.5 Striving for continuous and steady improvement in the treatment and welfare of horses.
- 15.2 An Accountable Person in respect of a horse must ensure that the horse receives, as soon as is reasonably practicable, husbandry or treatment that alleviates any deficiencies in nutrition or provisions or unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress being suffered by the horse.
- 15.3 An Accountable Person in respect of a horse must ensure that the horse is not euthanised in a manner that causes the horse unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress.
- 15.4 An Accountable Person in respect of a horse must not:
- 15.4.1 Keep the horse alive when it is in such a condition that it is suffering unreasonable or

unnecessary pain or distress.

- 15.4.2 Sell, transfer, lease, or otherwise dispose of, attempt to sell, transfer, lease or otherwise dispose of, or offer for sale, transfer, lease or other disposal, except for express purpose:
 - 15.4.2.1 to alleviate the unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress; or of the horse being euthanised if required.
- 15.5 An Accountable Person in respect of a horse must not desert the horse in circumstances in which no provision is made to meet its physical, health, and behavioural needs.
- 15.6 Except as permitted under the Animal Welfare (Care and Procedure) Regulations 2018 an Accountable Person in respect of a horse must not perform any surgical procedure on the horse unless that person is:
 - 15.6.1 a licenced veterinarian; or
 - 15.6.2 a person who is acting under the direct supervision of a licenced veterinarian and who is a student undergoing his or her training to become a licenced veterinarian.
- 15.7 No person may, when performing a surgical procedure on a horse perform that surgical procedure in such a manner that the horse suffers unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress.
- 15.8 An Accountable Person in respect of a horse must, where the horse is being transported in or on a vehicle, aircraft, or ship ensure:
 - 15.8.1 that the care of the horse is properly attended to by a competent person; and
 - 15.8.2 that, in particular, the horse:
 - 15.8.2.1 is provided with reasonably comfortable and secure accommodation; and
 - 15.8.2.2 is supplied with proper and sufficient food and water at regular intervals during the journey.
- 15.9 An Accountable Person must not confine or transport the horse, or permit the horse to be confined or transported, in a manner or position that causes the animal unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress.
- 15.10 An Accountable Person in respect of a horse must not permit the horse to be transported while the condition of the horse is such as to render it unfit to be transported.
- 15.11 An Accountable Person of a horse must, upon the sale, transfer, lease, euthanasia, or other disposal of that horse, ensure that that sale, transfer, lease, euthanasia or other disposal comply with the applicable requirements set out in these regulations.
- 15.12 Except where the Horse Movement Regulations apply, the Accountable Person must notify HRNZ within five working days of a horse moving location.

PART 4 IMPROVEMENT NOTICES and POSSESSION OF HORSES

16. IMPROVEMENT NOTICE

- 16.1 A Racing Investigator or Stipendiary Steward may issue an Improvement Notice where he or she considers there is a non-compliance with these regulations, the Animal Welfare Act 1999, the

- Animal Welfare (Care and Procedure) Regulations 2018, the Code of Welfare: Horse and Donkeys, or any combination thereof.
- 16.2 An Improvement Notice shall be a form approved by the Chief Executive of the RIB.
- 16.3 An Improvement Notice is to be sent to:
- 16.3.1 the person to whom it is issued.
 - 16.3.2 every other person that is, to the Chief Executive's of the RIB knowledge, directly affected by the improvement notice; and the Chief Executive
- 16.4 An Improvement Notice may be sent or delivered to the persons email and/or mail address in the HRNZ database and in which case the person is deemed to be notified of the improvement notice.
- 16.5 A Racing Investigator or Stipendiary Steward must promptly advise the Chief Executive of compliance or otherwise of any improvement notice.
- 16.6 The issuing of an improvement notice does not preclude a person from being charged for not complying with these regulations.

17. TAKING POSSESSION OF A HORSE

- 17.1 A Racing Investigator or Stipendiary Steward may take possession of a horse if he or she considers the welfare of the horse requires the horse to be removed from the property.
- 17.2 Where possession is taken of a horse it shall be taken to one or more property approved by the Chief Executive or the Chief Executive of the RIB, or their delegate.
- 17.3 Where possession is taken of a horse under these regulations the Racing Investigator or Stipendiary Steward must complete a Possession Notice in a form approved by the Chief Executive of the RIB.
- 17.4 A Possession Notice is to be sent to:
- 17.4.1 the person to whom it is issued;
 - 17.4.2 every other person that is, to the Racing Investigator's or Stipendiary Steward's knowledge, directly affected by the Possession Notice; and
 - 17.4.3 the Chief Executive.
- 17.5 A Possession Notice may be sent or delivered to the persons email and/or mail address in the HRNZ database and in which case the person is deemed to be notified of the Possession Notice.
- 17.6 A horse that is subject to possession order may be provided such care or treatment recommended by a veterinarian nominated by the Chief Executive of the RIB or euthanised if advised this is necessary by the nominated veterinarian.
- 17.7 A Racing Investigator or Stipendiary Steward shall report to the Chief Executive of the condition of a horse subject to a possession order when reasonably required from time to time.
- 17.8 The person to whom a Possession Notice was issued and any other person with a direct interest in the horse may apply in writing to the Chief Executive (or Chief Executive of the RIB) to withdraw, cancel, or amend the terms, of the Possession Notice within 20 working days after the notice was sent.
- 17.9 When an application is made under regulation 17.8 the Chief Executive must consider the application as soon as is reasonably practicable and in any event within five working days (or such other date at the Chief Executive directs) after the date on which the application is received.
- 17.10 The Chief Executive may amend or withdraw or cancel the Possession Notice and must give written notice of his or her decision to the person to whom the Possession Notice was issued and every other person to which a copy of the Possession Notice was sent.

- 17.11 A person to whom a Possession Notice is issued shall pay all costs incurred by the Racing Integrity Board and HRNZ. If such amount remains unpaid it is declared to be arrears.

PART 5 BREACHES OF THE REGULATIONS

18. MINOR INFRINGEMENT REGULATIONS

- 18.1 The Board may include a breach of a regulation in the Minor Offence Regulations.
- 18.2 The issuing of an Improvement Notice or a Possession Notice does not prevent a person being charged with a breach of these regulations

SCHEDULE 1

Body Condition Scoring of Horses

Method

To obtain the condition score for any horse, first score the pelvis, then adjust the pelvis score up or down by 0.5 if it differs by 1 or more points from the back or neck score.

Score

0 – Emaciated

Pelvis

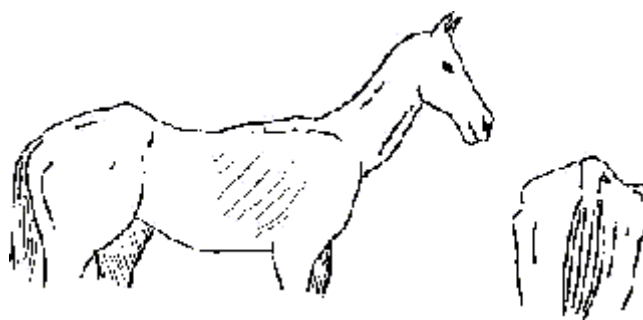
Angular, skin tight Very
sunken rump Deep
cavity under tail

Back and ribs

Skin tight over ribs
Very prominent and sharp backbone

Neck

Marked ewe neck Narrow
and slack at base



1 – Thin

Pelvis

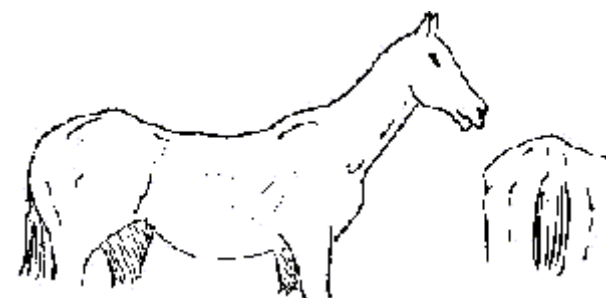
Prominent pelvis and croup Sunken
rump but skin supple Deep cavity
under tail

Back and ribs

Ribs easily visible
Prominent backbone with skin sunken on
either side

Neck

Ewe neck, narrow and slack at base



2 - Moderate

Pelvis

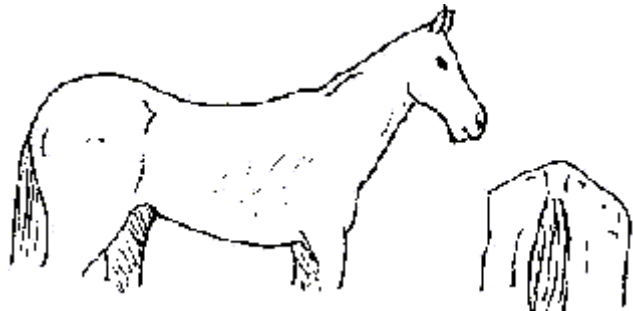
Rump flat either side of backbone
Croup well defined, some fat,

Back and ribs

Ribs just visible
Backbone covered but spines can be felt

Neck

Narrow but firm



3 - Good

Pelvis

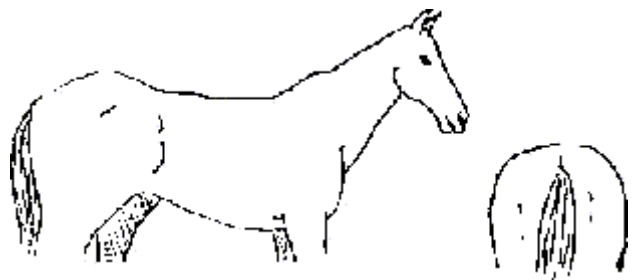
Covered by fat and rounded
No gutter
Pelvis easily felt

Back and ribs

Ribs just covered and easily felt
No gutter along back
Backbone well covered but spines can be felt

Neck

No crest (except for stallions) firm neck



4 - Fat

Pelvis

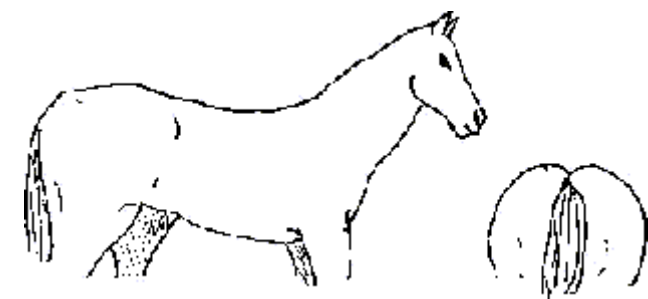
Gutter to root of tail Pelvis
covered by soft fat Need
firm pressure to feel

Back and ribs

Ribs well covered - need firm pressure to feel
Gutter along backbone

Neck

Slight crest Wide
and firm



5 - Very fat

Pelvis

Deep gutter to root of tail
Skin distended
Pelvis buried, cannot be felt

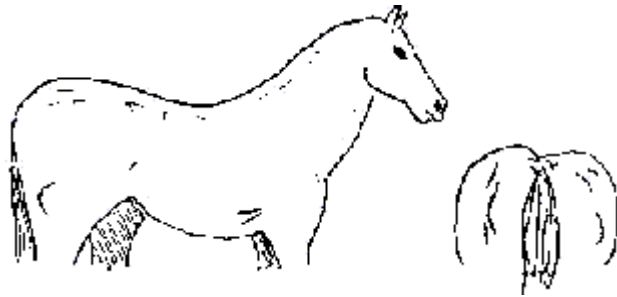
Back and ribs

Ribs buried, cannot be felt
Deep gutter along back

Back broad and flat

Neck

Marked crest
Very wide and firm
Fold of fat



Note: When using this chart to assist in calculating bodyweight, the score must be calculated to the nearest 0.5 points.

Based on the Carroll and Huntington Method